

21 September 2020

## Parent Update

Dear Parents/Carers

First and foremost, I want to reassure you that our return to school has gone very smoothly given the circumstances. The students have been wonderful and it has been great to see them return to learning and adapting well to the new routines around school.

As you are aware, the government has announced further restrictions within the local area which has in-turn triggered a Tier 1 response for schools. Tier 1 allows school to open fully as normal but the need for face coverings are now compulsory. Therefore, from Tuesday 22 September, all pupils will need to have a face mask with them for use on corridors, communal areas and social spaces. The only exception to this is on medical grounds which will need to be communicated to the school and a pass issued.

With a rising number of cases both locally and nationally, we are responding to the scenario of a positive COVID-19 case within the school community. As such, to this point, we have sent any students home who have displayed symptoms, recommending parents book a test, only for symptomatic members of the family, as soon as possible; acknowledging how very challenging it is to get a test locally.

The guidance we are following from Public Health England and the Department for Education highlights the following symptoms:

“We ask that schools recommend to their pupils and staff who feel unwell, that they get tested if:

- They develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms: **a high temperature; a new, continuous cough, or the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell;** or
- They are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse).”

If your child is sent home for a test, we will require a copy, either of the text or email, confirming the outcome of the test. If the test is negative your child may return to school (providing their year bubble is in school) as soon as they are well enough to do so. This can be sent to our school via email ([covid19@moseleypark.org](mailto:covid19@moseleypark.org))

If your child tests positive, we will need to gather the following information:

When were they tested?

When did you receive your results?

When did the symptoms start?

Apart from in lessons (we will track that through our seating plans), who have they had close contact with (see definition below)?

*Definition of “close contact”*

*face to face contact with an infected individual for any length of time, within 1 metre, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, or unprotected physical contact (skin-to-skin)  
proximity contacts - extended close contact (within 1 to 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with an infected individual*



*travelling in a small vehicle, like a car, with an infected person*

A positive test will require your child to isolate for a period of 10 days, only to return to school on the 11th day if all symptoms have gone.

If you have a positive test in your household (not your child at Moseley Park), it will be necessary for the entire household to isolate for a period of 14 days.

In the instance of a confirmed positive case within the school community, as quickly as possible, we will seek to isolate the wider bubbles affected within school. This may be taken as a precautionary action and does not necessarily mean pupils will be sent home and asked to isolate.

Once we have ascertained those students who have had “close contact”, as defined above, we will follow the guidance from Public Health England and the DfE, who will advise on the actions required, be that sending only immediate close contacts home to isolate, the form or teaching groups, the whole year, or the whole school. In all cases, this period of isolation will be for a period of 14 days, and the school will clarify the exact day this period is to end and the students can return to school. We are aware that all of these responses have been implemented in local schools that have experienced a positive case. We will write to everyone in the school, informing them of the measures, if any they need to take going forward.

In all instances of partial closure, work will be set via TEAMS in line with pupil timetables. Whether this will be in the form of live lessons will be dependent on the number of students who need to isolate as staff may well be teaching their full timetable in school whilst a partial closure is in place. Further communication on remote learning will be provided as we confirm our contingency plans.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our students and parents for your support. We do request that you assist the school in mitigating risk by making sure your child has their mask every day that covers the face and mouth.

Yours faithfully



Mr W Morgan  
Head of School



Mrs Holloway  
Executive Headteacher

